

# APPENDIX F

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN □

### **Purpose**

This Appendix provides an update on action taken on the recommendations in the original 2009 CWPP. It also provides a specific implementation plan for recommendations that are still applicable, but not completed and/or are ongoing.

The status of recommendations is addressed in Section A and the recommendation time-phased implementation plan is in Section B.

Methodology: Each CWPP recommendation has been prioritized within the plan's grouping of recommendations according to the Wildfire Protection Priorities established by the Village Council. Where new actions have arisen, they have been included.

In some cases, recommendations have been combined or a recommendation may be incorporated as a "subtask" under another recommendation of larger scope.

In each case, the recommended action has high-level detail as to:

- What has been accomplished (deliverables to date),
- What needs to be delivered,
- Timing or first step timing
- Responsible party

### **Concluding statement in Recommendation List in CWPP:**

*"Implementing these actions will take the Village of Angel Fire a long ways toward being "Safer, Healthier and More Beautiful." It will take work, but as long as landowners, homeowners, the Resort and Village officials remain focused on the long term, and committed to the outcome, this vision can become a reality."*

## **SECTION A: STATUS OF CWPP RECOMMENDATIONS**

(CWPP Recommendation text is *italicized*.)

### **TOP PRIORITY**

#### **Professional Forester**

*Establish a position knowledgeable in forestry or natural resources to implement and enforce WUI ordinances, obtain and manage WUI and hazardous fuels reduction grants, coordinate fire prevention activities and public involvement such as the Firewise communities program, and coordinate cooperator actions (including Forest Service, NM State Land Office, Taos Pueblo, and local Colfax County groups).*

The top overall priority is the immediate recruitment and hiring of a Village Forester. Almost all actions recommended in the CWPP and this Appendix are the direct or indirect responsibility of a Village Forester. Current efforts to educate and involve the public, develop prioritized and coordinated fuel treatment projects, obtain grants, and coordinate with other WUI partners are severely hampered by lack of expertise and available time of the current staff. Further, duties that should be performed by a Forester are now sapping as much as 20% of the Fire Department's labor that has detracted from them advancing their primary duties.

#### **Delivered:**

- New Village enterprise fund was established to fund all aspects of the Wildfire Protection Program. The program budget for FY 2014-2015 funds a new forester position.
- The Village Manager has developed a job description and recruiting materials to fill the position.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Recruit and hire a Village Forester. Timing: ASAP, but NLT May 1, 2015. Responsible Party: Village Manager

### **Public Information and Involvement Action Items**

1. *Create a group to develop fire prevention and hazard reduction messages and methods to promote community awareness and minimize the effects of a wildfire on the economy and environment.*

#### **Delivered:**

- Wildfire Protection Committee (WPC) chartered. The Mayor appointed a Wildfire Protection Committee to assist in this work in July 2014.
- An informal group that later participated in the Committee establishment held Firewise Outreach at the annual AAFPO meeting.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Create an Education and Outreach program and subcommittee (E&O SC) within the WPC. Timing: Fall 2014. Responsible party: WPC Chair.
  - Educate WPC members on all aspects of Fire Adapted Communities and other WUI programs. Timing: Ongoing. WPC.
2. *Conduct fire prevention campaigns during times when fire danger is high. Use newspapers, radio messages and signs to alert visitors and residents alike.*

#### **Delivered:**

- Agreement reached with Sangre de Cristo Chronicle for newspaper spot public

announcements.

**Deliverables:**

- Establish Education and Outreach subcommittee (E&O SC) within WPC. Timing: Fall 2014. Responsible party: WPC Chair.
- Regular spring / summer action to insert Fire Prevention/Mitigation bulletins in Village water bills. Timing: Spring 2015. Responsible party: Village Forester, E&O SC, and WPC.
- Annual June open house providing experts to Public to discuss Fire Prevention/Mitigation. Timing: June 2015. Responsible party: Village Forester, E&O SC.
- Monthly spring / summer action to run announcement on Village electronic bulletin board. Timing: May 1, 2015. Responsible party: Village Forester, E&O SC.
- Sponsor spring insert into local paper for Fire Prevention/Mitigation. Distribute additional copies to key stakeholders. Timing: spring 2015. Responsible party: Village Forester, E&O SC, and WPC Chair.

3. *Educate homeowners and potential contractors (home-building, forest thinning, etc.) about forest health and fire prevention.*

**Delivered:**

- Participated in Firewise Education in 2012-2014 at the annual AAFPO Member Meetings.

**Deliverables:**

- Annual AAFPO participation with Village Fire Department, NM State Forest, Colfax County Coalition of Firewise Communities (CCCFC). Timing: June 2015. Responsible party: Village Forester, Village Fire Chief.
- For 2014-2016, arrange with CCCFC and participate in 2 public meetings per year as speakers for the Ready Set Go (RSG) national program. Timing: Starting June 2014. Responsible party: Village Forester, E&O SC.
- Each summer host outdoor event for community demonstrating Healthy Forest adjacent to Overgrown Forest. Timing: June 2015. Responsible parties: Village Forester, Village Fire Department to prepare lot; E&O SC to provide speakers, advertising, refreshments, and host event.

**Lower Priority, Tier-Two Recommendations, to accomplish either when:**

- Community Priorities call for a change
- When Village / WPC recognizes an easy win.

4. *Coordinate with community groups and area Firewise organizations to promote fire prevention, fuels treatment and defensible space.*

**Reducing Structure Ignitability Action Items**

1. *Expand the slash disposal service to encourage homeowners to reduce wildland fuels on undeveloped lots and to install and maintain defensible space around structures. Implement incentives for slash fees to support thinning.*

**Delivered:**

- Village program within Solid Waste Department provides grapppler truck services, slash removal, slash chipping, and limited disposal.

**Deliverables:**

- Expand Village capabilities for slash collection through:
  - Additional grapppler truck (& other equipment) obtained through grants.
  - Additional staff/extended collection hours.Timing: Spring 2015. Responsible party: VoAF (Village Forester, Solid Waste Dept., Village Manager), WPC.
- Expand Village capabilities for slash disposal through:

- Resume Air Curtain Incinerator operation and staffing.  
Timing: Spring 2015. Responsible party: VoAF (Village Forester, Solid Waste Dept., Village Manager), WPC.
  - Establish additional disposal programs and partners capable of accepting anticipated volume of slash (possibly up to 4,000 to 10,000 tons per year).  
Timing: Beginning in Fall 2015 or Spring 2016. Responsible party: VoAF (Village Forester, Solid Waste Dept., Village Manager), WPC.
2. *Pursue state and federal grants that can support defensible space projects on both public and private lands. Landowners and local government can provide cost share support.*

**Delivered:**

- WPC has identified 2 grant programs (NMAC WUI, Non-Federal Lands Fuels Treatment) and established a calendar for submittal.

**Deliverables:**

- Establish subcommittee within WPC to aid Village in grant writing. Timing: Spring 2015. Responsible party: WPC chair.
  - Apply for two major grants in 2015. Timing: Spring 2015. Responsible party: Village Forester, Village Grants staff, and WPC Grants subcommittee.
  - Identify additional thinning grants activities. Timing: Spring 2015. Responsible party: Village Forester, NM Forestry Service, CCCFC, and WPC Grants subcommittee.
3. *Expand the current Wildland Urban Interface provisions to existing structures. Develop construction standards to reduce the vulnerability of wooden decks, especially on slopes. Implement the provisions in the highest hazard and risk areas first. Thin vacant lots adjacent to existing structures where needed to provide adequate defensible space.*

**Delivered:**

- Existing structure Defensible Space accepted in public forums/outreach, Village management and Council.
- Building codes reviewed and updated for 2009 ICC.
- Village established a register of thinning contractors who has demonstrated compliant fuel modification projects and can certify appropriate Liability and Workman's Compensation Insurance.
- Some site visits conducted by WPC and Fire Chief to coach landowners.

**Deliverables:**

- Village will establish Healthy Forest Certificate Program. Timing: June 1, 2015. Responsible Party: Village Forester.
- Forester to conduct site visits to coach/assist landowners, provide suggested fuel treatment on a lot-by-lot basis. Timing: Immediately upon hiring. Responsible Party: Village Forester.
- Village to seek grants to offset costs of residents to reduce fuels. Timing: Start January 2015. Responsible Party: Village Forester, Village Grants staff, WPC Grants subcommittee.
- Village to set up landowner participation for thinning immediately adjacent to structures. Timing: Start January 2015. Responsible Party: Village Forester.
- Village to seek grants to offset corporate and VoAF thinning cost, set up landowner participation for thinning in high priority high danger areas that impinge on lots with structures. Timeframe: Start January 2015. Responsible Party: Village Forester, Village Grants staff, WPC Grants subcommittee. Potential target, green belt below Vail Loop.
- See also Fuel Treatments Action Items #1 and #4.

## **Fuels Treatment Action Items**

1. *Work with the Association of Angel Fire Property Owners (AAFPO) Amenities Committee to conduct demonstration fuels reduction projects on the open space "green belt" trails throughout the Village that they maintain.*

NOTE: AAFPO is not responsible for maintaining green belts, but may provide some funding from the member amenities fund to support projects that benefit the membership.

**Delivered:**

- No action to date.

**Deliverables:**

- Develop demonstration treatments in readily accessible greenbelts and/or Village property for public viewing and education. Timing: May 2015. Responsible parties: Village Manager, Village Forester, and Angel Fire Resort.

2. *Conduct fuels reduction projects within or adjacent to the Village of Angel Fire based on the community hazard rating and fire behavior analysis sections of this plan.*

**Delivered:**

- Fuel reduction projects have been completed along the major evacuation routes to include Vail Drive, Via del Rey, Cimarron Drive, Taos Drive, (**Andy provide other streets if there are any**).

**Deliverables:**

- Initiate projects within Village upon grant funding or alternative means. Timing: Summer of 2015 if funded. Responsible parties: Village Forester.
- Coordinate fuel modification projects with land managers and property owners on high hazard areas along Village boundaries. Timing: Summer 2015. Responsible party: Village Forester.

3. *Pursue state and federal grants that can support fuels reduction projects on both public and private lands within the Village. Landowners and local government can provide cost share support.*

**Delivered:**

- Grants were obtained to reduce fuels along evacuation routes.

**Deliverables:**

- Apply for state and federal grants that can be used for projects on both public and private lands. Timing: Spring 2015. Responsible parties: Village Forester, Village grant staff, and Angel Fire Resort.

4. *Expand the current Wildland Urban Interface provisions to existing undeveloped lots. Treat the highest hazard and risk areas first. Consider requirements that emphasize thinning along roadways and property lines and might not require thinning entire lots.*

**Delivered:**

- The Village Ordinance (or "Wildland Urban Interface provisions" as the CWPP calls it) has undergone minor modification and has been the subject to a major revision including significant public input beginning in 2013.
- The Mayor appointed a WPC to assist in this work in July 2014 and the Village Council has directed the staff and committee to provide new proposals for the overall program and ordinance for its first work session in February 2015.

**Deliverables:**

- Draft revision to the CWPP to address fuel modification on vacant property and incorporate actions into the plan timetable starting with the highest hazard areas first. Timing: Preliminary recommendation to Council Feb 10, 2015; final recommendation by May 1, 2015. Responsible Party: Village Forester, WPC.
- Address vacant land in revised ordinance to accelerate reducing hazards in the highest risk areas. Timing: Preliminary recommendation to Council Feb 10, 2015; final recommendation by May 1, 2015. Responsible Party: Village Forester, WPC.

- Revise Village Codes to establish Defensible Space for both new construction and existing structures. Responsible Party: Village Forester, WPC, Village Planning and Zoning Dept.
- The Village Planning and Zoning Department is reviewing the 2012 ICC standards to incorporate appropriate WUI provisions in Village code. Responsible Party: Village Planning and Zoning Dept.
- A time-phased action plan to deal with the highest hazard and risk areas will be included in this Appendix and will be revised as appropriate in the future to reflect changing conditions. Responsible Party: Village Forester.

#### **Lower Priority, Tier-Two CWPP Recommendations:**

5. *Continue to participate in the Taos Canyon Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) Coalition as described in its Memorandum of Understanding between Taos Pueblo, the Village of Angel Fire, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, National Renewable Energy LLC, H.R. Vigil Small products, Urban Interface Solutions, and Amigos del Bosque, LLC.*
6. *Encourage the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) to participate in the Angel Fire Community Wildfire Protection Plan implementation to provide a wildlife management perspective.*

#### **Evacuation Planning Action Items**

1. *Establish signs identifying evacuation routes. Routes could be color coded to simplify instructions to the public.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

2. *Thin vegetation along roadways and at intersections where possible to create the greatest potential for visibility during a wildfire. Refer to the fuels treatment section of this Plan for more information.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

3. *Advise the public about evacuation routes and the pre-identified safety zones at the airport, community center and golf course.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

4. *Use radio stations to disseminate emergency information and advise the public of their importance as a primary source of information.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

5. *Ensure that area radio stations are aware of their importance as disseminators of emergency messages, and regularly review and update procedures for authorizing such messages.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

6. *Investigate the potential use of warning systems such as emergency sirens, mass notification systems (such as "Reverse 911), helicopter-mounted public address systems, etc.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

7. *Involve the Village Police Department, Colfax County Sheriff's Department, State Police, and other cooperators in reviewing current Emergency Operating Plans and conducting field exercises.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

8. *Create handouts or messages advising the public about how to prepare for an evacuation. Consider emphasizing that when getting ready to evacuate, people should remember the "5 P"s: Pictures, Pets, Papers, Pills and Phones."*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

### **Fire Department Capacity Action Items**

1. *Improve the fire department's Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating. Improved firefighter response, fire equipment such as a ladder truck, additional fire stations and additional water delivery and storage capacity should improve the fire department's Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating. An improved ISO rating will increase annual fire department funding and reduce homeowner insurance rates.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

2. *Establish a position knowledgeable in forestry or natural resources to implement and enforce WUI ordinances, obtain and manage WUI and hazardous fuels reduction grants, coordinate fire prevention activities and public involvement such as the Firewise communities program, and coordinate cooperator actions (including Forest Service, NM State Land Office, Taos Pueblo, and local Colfax County groups).*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

3. Encourage the cross-training of area fire departments, local government officials and state and federal agencies using the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage an emergency incident

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

4. Maintain the Enchanted Circle annual operating plan to coordinate area wildfire management. An annual operating plan has been prepared cooperatively with local, state, and federal government agencies.

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

5. *Participate in interagency fire incidents to increase experience. Continue to participate in the New Mexico Resource Mobilization Plan to gain experience conducting wildfire suppression in wildland urban interface communities.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

6. *Conduct local, effective, and certified wildland fire trainings. Maintain wildland firefighter qualifications.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

7. *Consider developing a regional training center. Reach out to regional cooperators such as the Enchanted Circle, Raton Fire Department and Colfax and San Miguel County Fire Departments.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**

8. *Continue to improve water storage and delivery systems. Complete development of one million gallon storage tank and connect the new storage into the existing water delivery system. Study how power outages or other problems during a wildland fire would affect water delivery.*

**Delivered:**

**Deliverables:**



9. *Actively participate in the planning, evaluation and monitoring of all federal, state, tribal and CFRP fuels treatment projects to assure agencies are working together to conduct high priority projects that are effective and benefit the Village.*

**Delivered:**

- Incorporated into existing Fire Department operations. Responsible Party: Village Fire Chief.

10. *Consider supporting the USDA-Forest Service, Carson National Forest prescribed burn and wildfire use programs, provided that community concerns for safety and smoke management are understood and followed.*

**Delivered:**

- Incorporated into existing Fire Department operations. Responsible Party: Village Fire Chief.

## SECTION B - TIME-PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF CWPP RECOMMENDATIONS

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